



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2008

TO: Fire Suppression Contractors

FROM: Robert W. Sherry, P.E.
Mechanical Plans Examiner
Development Services Department
791-5550 ext. 2209

SUBJECT: Mechanical Inspections for Kitchen Hoods

Fire suppression systems for kitchen grease hoods are not only associated with the installation of new kitchen grease hoods. Commonly, independent fire suppression permits are required for converting from a dry fire suppressant agent to a wet fire suppressant agent, or replacing an obsolete fire suppression system. In most cases, no mechanical inspections are required for these changes but we have found that mechanical inspections for the grease hood systems are needed in certain instances for building safety.

Over the past year, the mechanical inspections have uncovered such problems as:

- hoods that have been installed or modified without permits
- replacement fans not rated for kitchen exhaust duty or running backwards
- replacement grease ducts not constructed of the approved materials
- grease ducts had neither an enclosing shaft nor a ceramic fire wrap
- and in one case, the grease duct itself was missing

The majority of fire suppression permits will continue to require only inspection by the Tucson Fire Department. However an inspection by the Development Services mechanical inspector will be required when:

- a hood system that has not been mechanically inspected as part of a building permit in the last five years
- Fire inspection comments identify possible mechanical issues with the hood system

If you think you may have a problem with your hood system due to one or more of the above problems, you should call for the mechanical inspection before installing the fire suppression system.